REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, no claims have been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application.

REJECTION UNDER 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nonaka et al. (5,471,441) (hereinafter "Nonaka").

Nonaka discloses a CD player capable of playing back a partially recorded CD. In Nonaka, the decoder unit 6 includes an audio-data decoding section 6A and a control-data decoding section 6B. The audio-data decoding section 6A converts the received playback RF signal S_{RF} into a binary signal, separates a frame sync pattern therefrom, demodulates the signal based on the EFM (Eight to Fourteen Modulation), performs signal processing, such as error correction, on the resultant signal, and outputs audio data D_{AD} to a D/A converter section 10. The audio-data decoding section 6A also outputs control data D_{CN} included in a sub code to the control-data decoding section 6B. The decoding section 6B decodes the control data D_{CN} and outputs the resultant data to the system controller 7. At the same time, the decoder unit 6 produces a spindle servo error signal S_{SE} from the input playback RF signal S_{RF} and outputs it to the second servo section 3B. The second servo section 3B serves as a spindle servo section. Based on the spindle servo error signal S_{SE} and control signal S_{CON}, the second servo section 3B outputs the spindle servo control signal S_{SC} to the spindle motor 2 to rotate the spindle motor 2 at a predetermined speed. The D/A converter section 10 converts the input audio data D_{AD} into an analog signal and outputs it as an audio output signal S_{OUT}. The system controller 7 performs the general control of the CD player 100 based on the control data D_{CN} and an operation control signal from a display/operation section 11. The system controller 7 has a memory 7A memorizing various data. The display/operation section 11 is equipped with a display section to display various types of information and inform a user of such information, and performs various displays under the control of the system controller 7. Nonaka, 8:17-8:48.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 11

Claim 1 recites: "...transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested from the host computer during the reproduction mode." In contrast to claim 1, Nonaka does not disclose transmitting the set sub-code data to a host computer. In Nonaka, the display/operation section 11 corresponds to the host computer recited in claim 1. The system controller 7 of Nonaka corresponds to the microcomputer 107 of the present invention. The system controller 7 of Nonaka controls the display/operation section 11 but Nonaka does not disclose that the display/operation section 11 ever requests sub-code data during the reproduction mode as is recited in claim 1.

By providing accurate sub-code data to the host computer, as is recited in claim 1, the reproduction of an unnatural screen during reproduction, such as automatic reproduction or game CD reproduction, is prevented.

Also, claims 14 and 22 of Nonaka disclose a method for monitoring information indicative of an actual track number of a program currently being read from a sub code stored on the disk, comparing the monitoring information with a previously determined last track number, and substituting the actual track number for the previously determined last track number if the actual track number exceeds the previously determined last track number. In contrast, claim 1 (and claims 12-16, as discussed later) recites a method for setting sub-code data whenever the data of a predetermined unit is output from a buffer.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9 and 11 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 12

Claim 12 recites: "...transmitting the current item of the set sub-code data to the host computer in response to the buffer being full and a request from the host computer for the sub-code data." In contrast to claim 12, Nonaka does not disclose transmitting the current item of the set sub-code data to the host computer. In Nonaka, the display/operation section 11 corresponds to the host computer recited in claim 12. The system controller 7 of Nonaka corresponds to the microcomputer 107 of the present invention. The system controller 7 of Nonaka controls the display/operation section 11 but Nonaka does not disclose that the display/operation section 11 ever transmits sub-code data to the host computer as is recited in

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claim 12.

By providing current sub-code data to the host computer, as is recited in claim 12, the reproduction of an unnatural screen during reproduction, such as automatic reproduction or game CD reproduction, is prevented.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 13

Claim 13 recites: "...transmitting the current item of the set sub-code data to the host computer in response to a request from the host computer for the sub-code data." In contrast to claim 13, Nonaka does not disclose transmitting the current item of the set sub-code data to the host computer. In Nonaka, the display/operation section 11 corresponds to the host computer recited in claim 13. The system controller 7 of Nonaka corresponds to the microcomputer 107 of the present invention. The system controller 7 of Nonaka controls the display/operation section 11 but Nonaka does not disclose that the display/operation section 11 ever transmits sub-code data to the host computer as is recited in claim 13.

By providing current sub-code data to the host computer, as is recited in claim 13, the reproduction of an unnatural screen during reproduction, such as automatic reproduction or game CD reproduction, is prevented.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 14 and 15

Claims 14 and 15 recite: "...transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer when the sub-code data is requested by the host computer during a reproduction mode." In contrast to claims 14 and 15, Nonaka does not disclose transmitting the set sub-code data to the host computer. In Nonaka, the display/operation section 11 corresponds to the host computer recited in claim 12. The system controller 7 of Nonaka corresponds to the microcomputer 107 of the present invention. The system controller 7 of Nonaka controls the display/operation section 11 but Nonaka does not disclose that the display/operation section 11 ever transmits sub-code data to the host computer as is recited in claims 14 and 15.

By providing current sub-code data to the host computer, as is recited in claims 14 and 15, the reproduction of an unnatural screen during reproduction, such as automatic reproduction or game CD reproduction, is prevented.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claim 16

Claim 16 recites: "...transmitting the set virtual sub-code data to the host computer when the virtual sub-code data is requested from the host computer during the reproduction mode." In contrast to claim 16, Nonaka does not disclose transmitting the set virtual sub-code data to the host computer. In Nonaka, the display/operation section 11 corresponds to the host computer recited in claim 16. The system controller 7 of Nonaka corresponds to the microcomputer 107 of the present invention. The system controller 7 of Nonaka controls the display/operation section 11 but Nonaka does not disclose that the display/operation section 11 ever transmits sub-code data to the host computer as is recited in claim 16.

By providing current sub-code data to the host computer, as is recited in claim 16, the reproduction of an unnatural screen during reproduction, such as automatic reproduction or game CD reproduction, is prevented.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

REJECTION UNDER 103

Claims 3, 5-7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nonaka.

Claims 3, 5-7 and 10 are dependent on claim 1 and are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons discussed above. Further, claims 3, 5-7 and 10 recite features that patentably distinguish over Nonaka. For example, claim 3 recites that the setting of the sub-code data comprises setting the sub-code data whenever the data of one sector unit is output from the buffer.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
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